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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/163,993	09/29/1998	MOHAN ANANDA	04500.913	6131

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EXAMINER

ABDI, KAMBIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/163,993

Applicant(s)

ANANDA, MOHAN

Examiner

Kambiz Abdi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 239-272 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 239-272 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this section can be found in the prior office action.
2. The prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.
 - No claims have been amended.
 - Claims 1,3,4,6,7,10,12-14,18-21,23-25,27-29,31-34,36,39 and 41-81 are canceled.
 - Claims 239-272 are added.
 - Claims 239-272 have been considered.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4 March 2004 has been entered.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 239 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim is not clear on "administrator system software executing on one or more computer" examiner believes that it should read "an administrator system...", also "said administrator system software in communication with said server system", examiner believes that "system software is in communication" would be more clearer.
5. Examiner suggests that the applicant review the current claims for further informalities and remedy them as necessary.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 4 March 2004 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 239 and 256 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,752,950 to Marc Le Carpenter.

9. As per claims 239 and 256, Le Carpenter clearly teaches an online processing method and system for processing postage indicia requests comprising:

- one or more client systems configured to interface with one or more users, said one or more client systems configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia (See Le Carpenter abstract, figures 1-3 and associated text and column 2, lines 24-66 and column 4, lines 18-30);
- a server system in communication with said one or more client systems, said server system in communication with one or more postal service systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said one or more client systems and to send postage indicia data to said one or more client systems (See Le Carpenter abstract, figures 1-3 and associated text and column 2, lines 16-66 and column 3, lines 41-64); and
- administrator system software executing on one or, more computers, administrator system software in communication with said server system, said administrator system software comprising a statistical analysis report module configured to provide one or more reports about user transactions (See Le Carpenter abstract, figures 1-3 and associated text and column 2, lines, 16-66 column 3, lines 41-64 and column 6, lines 1-68 and column 9, lines 27-41).

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10. Claims 246 and 263 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,853,865 to Ronald P. Sansone.

As per claims 246 and 263, Sansone clearly teaches an online processing method and system for processing postage indicia requests comprising:

- one or more client systems configured to interface with one or more users, said one or more client systems configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68 column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65),
- a server system in communication with said one or more client systems, said server system in communication with one or more postal service systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said one or more client systems and to send postage indicia data to said one or more client systems (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68 column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65); wherein said server system comprises:
 - a database comprising stored account information of said one or more users (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68 column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65);
 - a user account interface module configured to respond to an account request received from a given client system by retrieving a portion of said stored account information that is associated with a respective user of said given client system and providing said portion to said given client system (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-

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68column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65).

11. Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 240-245, 247-255, 256-262, and 265-272 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,853,865 to Ronald P. Sansone in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,752,950 to Marc Le Carpenter.

14. As per claims 247 and 264, Sansone clearly teaches an online processing method and system for processing postage indicia requests.

- one or more client systems configured to interface-with one or more users, said one or more client systems configured to send a postage request and to print postage indicia (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65);

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- a server system in communication with said one or more client systems, wherein said server system is configured to receive said postage request from said one or more client systems and to send postage indicia data to said one or more client systems; wherein said server system comprises (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68 column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65):

- a postal service interface module for interfacing with one or more postal service systems (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68 column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65);

15. What Sansone is not clear and specific is,

- a statistical reports module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said statistical reports module configured to provide reports associated with usage of said on-line postage system by said one or more users.

16. However, Le Carpenter clearly teaches the above mentioned limitation (See Le Carpenter abstract, figures 1-3 and associated text and column 2, lines, 16-66 column 3, lines 41-64 and column 6, lines 1-68 and column 9, lines 27-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to add an statistical analysis module to the existing system to provide better accounting and forecasting of needed maintenance or budgeting.

17. As per claims 240-245 and 257-262, Sansone teaches all the limitations of claims 239 and 256, further; Sansone teaches,

- a user financial information module configured to facilitate reviewing and monitoring the financial status of said one or more users (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68 column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65).

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- a license database access module configured to facilitate access to said license database and review of, for each of said one or more users, the status of a license issued by a postal service authority (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68 column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65).
- a system access security module configured to secure communication between said server system and said administrator system software (See Sansone abstract, figures 1-6 and associated text column 2, lines 61-68 column 3, lines 1-20, column 3, lines 35-51, and column 4, lines 51-66, column 5, lines 18-68, column 8, lines 22-49, and column 9, lines 8-65).

18. What Sansone is not clear and specific is the use of a flat file access module configured to facilitate review of information in said, flat files, in order to transmit data back and forth.

However, these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The collecting and transmitting data among the postal authority, central server, and the user location would be performed the same regardless of the data. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

19. What Sansone is not clear and specific is the wherein said client and administrator system and said server system each comprises an internet access module configured to facilitate communication between said client and administrator system and said server system over the internet. The examiner takes Official Notice that communication between systems via Internet (or a public or private network) is old and well established practice as one way of easy and universal communication. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included communication via the internet as means of communication along with other well known methods of communications such as private networks, intranets, WAN, or LANS for ease of access and universality of the use.

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20. As per claims 248-255 and 265-272, Sansone teaches all the limitations of claims 247 and 264, further, Sansone teaches,

- a data update interface module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said data update interface module facilitating updating of postage rate information on said server system by said one or more postal service systems (See Sansone figure 1, column 2, lines 60-68, column 3, lines 1-15 and 35-51).
- a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with an archiving module (See Sansone figure 4, column 2, lines 60-68, column 3, lines 1-15 and 35-51).
- wherein said server system further comprises a financial interfaces module configured to facilitate a transaction between said server system and a financial system having a postal service account, said transaction comprising information associated with a transfer of funds from a user account to said postal service account (See Sansone figure 4, column 2, lines 60-68, column 3, lines 1-15 and 35-51, column 4, lines 51-57).
- wherein said server system further comprises a server access security module configured to manage and restrict access to said server system (See Sansone figure 4, column 3, lines 35-51 and column 4, lines 51-57).

21. What Sansone is not clear and specific is the use of a flat file module configured to transform postage system data into flat files for transmission to said one or more postal service systems. However, these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The collecting and transmitting data among the postal authority, central server, and the user location would be performed the same regardless of the data. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

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22. What Sansone is not clear and specific is a data update interface module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said data update interface module facilitating updating of zip code information on said server system by said one or more postal service systems. The examiner takes Official Notice that updating information such as Zip Codes in a sub system (See Sansone figure5) is old and well established practice as one way of easy and economical updating information. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to set the system of Sansone in a way that it would be updating Zip codes as well as other data codes that it is updating in the system for franking a postage indicia to be more accurate on the calculation and updating of the value of the indicia.

23. What Sansone is not clear and specific is a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with a user activity monitoring module. However, Le Carpenter clearly teaches a user activity monitoring subsystem (See Le Carpenter abstract, figures 1-3 and associated text and column 2, lines, 16-66 column 3, lines 41-64 and column 6, lines 1-68and column 9, lines 27-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to add an monitoring module to the existing system to provide better accounting and forecasting of needed maintenance or budgeting as well as more security and control over the remote system.

24. What Sansone is not clear and specific is a utility module interfacing with said postal service interface module, said utility module providing an interface with a report generating module configured to provide reports of transactions in said on-line postage system. However, Le Carpenter clearly teaches a user activity monitoring and reporting subsystem (See Le Carpenter abstract, figures 1-3 and associated text and column 2, lines, 16-66 column 3, lines 41-64 and column 6, lines 1-68and column 9, lines 27-41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to add an monitoring and reporting module to the existing system to provide better

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accounting and forecasting of needed maintenance or budgeting as well as more security and control over the remote system.

25. Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kambiz Abdi whose telephone number is (703) 305-3364. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

27. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

28. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

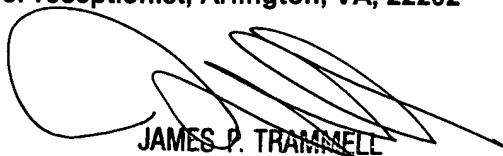
(703) 872-9306 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 746-7749 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to:

**Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive
7th floor receptionist, Arlington, VA, 22202**

**Abdi/K
May 13, 2004**


**JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**